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## PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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### UNITED STATES.

#### *Assignment of inspectors to the fruit ports of Central and South America.*

The following-named acting assistant surgeons have been appointed and assigned to the fruit ports of Central and South America for the coming season for the purpose of inspecting the vessels, their cargoes and crews, bound from said ports to ports of the United States.

W. H. Carson, Belize, British Honduras.

D. W. Goodman, Bluefields, Nicaragua.

Paul Osterhout, Bocas del Toro, Colombia.

W. B. Robertson, Ceiba, Honduras.

R. H. Peters, Livingston, Guatemala.

Fleetwood Gruver, Port Limon, Costa Rica.

C. S. Carter, Puerto Cortez, Honduras.

#### *Instructions to inspectors.*

MARCH 28, 1903.

A. A. Surg. PAUL OSTERHOUT,

*Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.*

SIR: Referring to Bureau letter of 24th instant, transmitting your appointment as an acting assistant surgeon at the above-named port, you are requested to observe the following instructions in carrying out your duties. As soon as possible an order will be issued attaching you to the consular agency in accordance with the law of February 15, 1893.

You should call upon the consular agent immediately upon your arrival and inform him of your orders. The State Department will be requested to instruct said consular agent to transfer to you the public property left in his custody by your predecessor at the close of the last quarantine season, a list of which is inclosed herewith.

I have transmitted to you under separate cover certain blank forms and printed instructions for your guidance as described below, a copy of the United States quarantine laws and regulations with amendments to date, also copy of the special rules provided for the government of vessels engaged in the fruit trade between the fruit ports of Central and South America and the ports of the United States as promulgated in Department Circular No. 134, of August 31, 1900. Amendment to the last-named circular is inclosed herewith, reducing the period of detention of prospective passengers from ten to five days.

Baggage of passengers bound for places north of the southern boundary of Maryland need not be disinfected.

I have to also transmit a supply of two blank forms, one of which is an individual certificate to be issued to each passenger about to embark on a fruit vessel bound to a United States port; the other is a certificate to be issued to the master of the vessel as an adjunct to the bill of health, which certificate he may deliver, if requested, to the quarantine officer at the port of arrival. One copy of each certificate issued by you should be inclosed with the weekly report from your station.

Your attention is called to the spread of yellow fever through the agency of the mosquito known as the *Stegomyia fasciata*, and special precautions should be taken to prevent their presence aboard vessels.

At the close of each week you should transmit a report of conditions and transactions at your port on the blank form, a supply of which has been forwarded.

Should yellow fever break out at your port you are requested to immediately cable the Bureau. You should keep complete records of all transactions in order that a report of the same may be submitted at the close of the season. You are informed that the active quarantine season for the States of Louisiana, Alabama, and Texas will take effect on the 1st day of April.

You should, immediately upon your arrival, ascertain the amount of supplies on hand and should make timely requisition for replenishing the same, in order that you may be fully equipped to carry out the duties assigned to you.

An immediate acknowledgment of receipt of this letter is requested and you will report to the Bureau the date of your departure and also the date of your arrival at destination.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,  
*Surgeon-General.*

A letter similar to the foregoing was sent to each of the acting assistant surgeons previously named.

[Inclosure.]

*Special regulations for the government of vessels plying between infected or suspected fruit ports and ports of the United States.*

[1900.—Department Circular No. 134.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL  
MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,  
*Washington, D. C., August 31, 1900.*

*To United States Consular Officers, Masters and Owners of Vessels, Collectors of Customs, National, State, and Local Quarantine Officers, and Others :*

To permit vessels from foreign ports with perishable cargoes of fruit to enter ports of the United States without detention in accordance with the provisions of the Quarantine Regulations, November 13, 1899, the following special regulations are promulgated, and will be enforced at the ports of departure:

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR VESSELS ENGAGED IN THE FRUIT TRADE BETWEEN  
FOREIGN PORTS SUSPECTED OF BEING INFECTED WITH YELLOW FEVER AND PORTS OF  
THE UNITED STATES.

1. None of the crew shall be allowed to go on land except the captain.

2. No one from the shore shall visit the boat except the quarantine officers, customs officers, and agent of the company which charters the ship.

3. All laborers who may be taken on the ship for loading purposes must have all their baggage disinfected before boarding the vessel, and must have no intercourse with the shore subsequent to their entry upon the vessel until their final discharge therefrom.

4. No intercourse is to be allowed with persons on shore, except as provided in the preceding paragraphs.

5. No vessel in the harbor shall lie at any wharf, except as provided in special cases, but must be anchored in the river or harbor in mid-stream, and lighters, having been loaded by natives ashore, may be unloaded onto the ship by the laborers whose clothing has been disinfected.

6. The ships, if going up a river or harbor for fruit, shall not be allowed to bring any passengers down the river on their return.

7. All passengers must embark from the regular ports and must have been under the observation of the sanitary inspector of the United States for at least five days prior to the departure of the ship, and be provided with his certificate to that effect. Immediately preceding their embarkation their baggage must be disinfected in accordance with the quarantine regulations of November 13, 1899, the most convenient methods being six hours' exposure to formaldehyde gas or

twenty-four hours' exposure to sulphur-dioxide gas in a closed chamber, the clothing being hung up on lines for the better penetration of the gas. Under no circumstances shall any passengers be allowed to carry bedding or household effects. Where passengers come from elevated and noninfectible points in the interior to low coast towns for embarkation they should not be required to pass the five days' period of observation in the latter places because of the danger of developing malarial or other tropical fevers. They should be required to bring a certificate from the United States consul, or a reliable physician, stating that they have been under observation at such elevated and non-infectible interior point for five days immediately preceding their arrival at coast towns. Their baggage should then be disinfected and they should be allowed to proceed without detention. Passengers taking ships bound direct to points north of the southern boundary of Maryland need not be detained.

8. Special attention should be paid to the sanitary condition and history of passengers arriving directly or indirectly from the Pacific coast towns of Central America.

9. All outgoing vessels must be provided with a bill of health in accordance with the law, and in addition thereto certificates in duplicate, signed by the medical officer attached to the consulate, and giving the name of the ship, her master, the number of crew, and a list of passengers, their sanitary condition, and their ultimate destination in the United States, and stating the health conditions of the port and surrounding country, of the ship and her crew, with any other pertinent information. This certificate shall be attached to the bill of health and a duplicate to the duplicate bill of health.

SPECIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR VESSELS ENGAGED IN THE FRUIT TRADE BETWEEN  
FOREIGN PORTS INFECTED WITH YELLOW FEVER, OR WHERE YELLOW FEVER PREVAILS,  
AND PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The foregoing rules and regulations shall apply also to vessels engaged in the fruit trade between foreign ports infected with yellow fever, or where yellow fever prevails, and ports of the United States, and are the special regulations provided for in Article II, paragraph 2, D, exception 3, of the Quarantine Regulations for Domestic Ports, November 13, 1899. Attention is called to the further requirement in said Article II, paragraph 2, D, exception 3, that these vessels shall carry no passengers; and also to the regulations to be observed at all foreign ports with regard to vessels leaving for the United States or its dependencies.

WALTER WYMAN,

*Supervising Surgeon-General Marine-Hospital Service.*

Approved:

O. L. SPAULDING,

*Assistant Secretary.*